The Preposition

3c. A **preposition** is a word that shows the relationship between a noun or a pronoun and another word in the sentence.

**EXAMPLES** They traveled **on** foot. [The preposition *on* shows the relationship of *foot* to *traveled.*]

Prepositions that are made up of more than one word are called **compound prepositions**.

**EXAMPLE** According **to** some historians, the explorers Lewis and Clark traveled more than eight thousand miles.

**EXERCISE A** Highlight all the prepositions in the following sentences.

**Example** 1. The explorers were successful **on** their mission **in spite of** many challenges.

1. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were officers in the United States Army.
2. President Thomas Jefferson suggested that Lewis find a northwest passage to the Pacific Ocean.
3. The Lewis and Clark expedition was one of the most important in United States history.
4. On account of their exploration, territories recently acquired by the United States could be mapped.
5. Lewis and Clark began their journey in 1804.
6. They left from St. Louis and traveled to the Pacific coast.
7. Lewis and Clark endured many hardships during their long journey.
8. They traveled with horses and a large amount of supplies.
9. In spite of a severe winter in the Rocky Mountains, they survived.
10. The expansion and settlement of the West was easier because of Lewis and Clark.

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EXERCISE B Highlight the preposition in each of the following sentences. Then, on the line provided, rewrite the sentence using a different preposition in place of the one you underlined.

Example 1. The puppy crawled behind the bed. *The puppy crawled under the bed*

11. Lay the magazines on the sofa. _____

12. We walked down the garden path. _____

13. Martha is sitting next to Keith. _____

14. The ball landed between Jennifer and Tamika. _____

15. We found the toy underneath the chair. _____

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